

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application for the reasons indicated in the following remarks.

Claims 116-175 are pending for further consideration. Claims 116, 128, 140, and 152 are independent. All claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Molnar et al. (Molnar). The rejection is clearly unfounded, and therefore respectfully traversed.

While the Office Action purports to reject each of the independent claims, the rationale offered at pages 2-3 of the action is little more than a restatement of Claim 116 coupled with a conclusory assertion that Molnar teaches the claimed invention. The specific features of Claims 140 and 152 are not even addressed.¹ Indeed, even as to Claim 116, except for citation to column 4, lines 5-7 as teaching a portable storage medium, the Office Action makes no attempt to correlate specific portions of the Molnar reference with particular features of the claimed invention. Instead, the action cites what is essentially the entire specification of the reference (i.e., "Abstract, cols. 2-18"). This is

¹ It is recognized that there are certain similarities between Claim 116 and 128, although Claim 128 is not a method claim.

not a proper statement of rejection.² Moreover, Applicant would respectfully point out that column 4, lines 5-7 of the Molnar specification relate to backup storage provided at Molnar's central broadcasting site, whereas the invention, as will be discussed further below, is concerned with the use of a portable storage medium at a user station.

While the rejection on Molnar is clearly untenable based solely on the deficiencies noted above, Applicant respectfully offers the following additional remarks in a spirit of cooperation with a view toward advancing the prosecution.

In accordance with one of its principal aspects, as set forth in independent Claim 116, Applicant's invention provides a method for distributing content to a user station. The method comprises providing a first portable storage medium including both first fixed content and computer executable software. When the first portable storage medium is used at the user station, the computer executable software can be installed on the user station to (i) enable a user at the user station to access first remote content from a first remote content source, the

² The treatment of the dependent claims in the Office Action is, for the most part, similarly conclusory, without supporting citations to specific portions of the Molnar reference.

first remote content relating to the first fixed content and (ii) enable the user to access second remote content from a second remote content source, the second remote content relating to second fixed content, the second fixed content being different from the first fixed content, and the second fixed content being included on a second portable storage medium.

Molnar neither teaches nor suggests the foregoing method of Applicant's invention. Molnar discloses a system for demonstrating and selling computer programs. The system includes a single central distribution site that broadcasts program information to individual user sites in repeated cycles. The information can be accessed from the broadcast by the user sites. In contrast to Applicant's invention, however, Molnar does not teach the use of a portable storage medium which has first fixed content and computer executable software, and also which is used at a user station to provide the two aspects of functionality set forth in Claim 116. As previously noted, the portion of Molnar's specification at column 4, lines 5-7, which was specifically cited in the outstanding Office Action, relates to backup storage provided at Molnar's central broadcasting site, not to the use of a portable storage medium at a user station.

Independent Claim 128 recites a first portable storage medium including both first fixed content and computer executable software. When the first portable storage medium is used at a user station, the computer executable software can be installed on the user station to provide the functionality discussed above in connection with Claim 116.

As will be appreciated from the above discussion of Claim 116, Molnar does not teach or suggest a first portable storage medium as set forth in Claim 128.

Independent Claim 140 recites a user station comprising a user interface, a processor, and programmed logic. The processor executes the programmed logic to enable a user at the user station to access, via the user interface, fixed content from each of a plurality of portable storage media together with respective remote content from one or more remote content sources. Further, for each of the plurality of portable storage media, the user interface is customized with respect to the fixed content stored on the portable storage medium when the user accesses the fixed content stored on the storage medium.

Molnar's system evidently includes a plurality of receiver/computer sites 57 coupled to a central distribution site 20. But Molnar does not teach or suggest

a user station having the particular features defined in Claim 140 outlined above. Notably, as previously mentioned, the outstanding Office Action does not even attempt to address the particular features of the invention as defined in Claim 140.

Turning lastly to independent Claim 152, Applicant's invention provides a method of distributing software to a client computer over the Internet via a server-based update distribution service. The method comprises providing, on a first portable storage medium, a first computer executable software application that can be executed on the client computer. The method further comprises providing, on the first portable storage medium, computer executable software that can be transferred to the client computer to (i) enable the client computer to obtain over the Internet via the server-based update distribution service an update for the first computer executable software application, the update for the first computer executable software application being selected at the client computer, and (ii) enable the client computer to obtain over the Internet via the server-based update distribution service an update for a second computer executable software application on the client computer, the second computer executable software application being different from the first computer

executable software application, and the update for the second computer executable software application being selected at the client computer.

Molnar provides no teaching or suggestion whatsoever of the method set forth in Claim 152 outlined above. Notably, as in the case of Claim 140, the outstanding Office Action does not even attempt to address the particular features of the invention as defined in Claim 152.

As has been amply demonstrated in the preceding remarks, the rejection on Molnar is untenable and should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, a favorable action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this

paper and has not been requested separately, such extension
is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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